

MAXINE WATERS

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
43RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0535

PLEASE REPLY TO:
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 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0535
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May 21, 2013

Mr. Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Mr. Leahy:

I urge you to include a light rail station at Florence Ave. and Hindry Ave. in the plans for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor to serve the community of Westchester and the City of Inglewood. I also urge you to apply for a federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant for the construction of this station during the application period for the current round of TIGER grants.

As you know, I am a strong supporter of the TIGER grant program, and I am committed to expanding the available funding for TIGER. Earlier this year, I reintroduced the TIGER Grants for Job Creation Act (H.R. 1124), a bill to provide an emergency supplemental appropriation of one billion dollars over the next two years for TIGER, which would not be subject to sequestration. This bill now has 68 cosponsors, as well as the support of the LACMTA Board of Directors. I also sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee, signed by 113 of my colleagues, requesting an appropriation of \$500 million for the TIGER grant program in fiscal year 2014.

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor will improve air quality, relieve traffic congestion, and expand access to work, education, shopping, and entertainment opportunities throughout Los Angeles County. In order to maximize these benefits, it is important that all communities along the corridor have access to it. That is why it is so critical that the corridor include a station at Florence Ave. and Hindry Ave.

A Hindry station on the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor is especially important to the Westchester community. Without a Hindry station, there will be no stop on this corridor between the Florence/La Brea station and the Aviation/Century station – a distance of almost three miles. Without a place to board between these two stations, Westchester residents would not have convenient pedestrian access to the line. The line would also be inconvenient for students who attend Loyola Marymount University and Westchester High School. Westchester residents are well aware of their contributions to transit projects throughout Los Angeles County through Measure R and deserve access to light rail in their own community.

A Hindry station would also be important for the 600 military veterans who are residents of the U.S. Vets facility at 733 S. Hindry Ave. in Inglewood. Most of these veterans rely on public transportation, and it will be difficult for them to walk all the way to Century Boulevard to board a train. This residential facility is important to our returning servicemen and women as they face challenges in their transition to civilian life, and it deserves as much support as the community can provide.

Failure to include a station serving Westchester would reduce the overall benefits of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor for the entire Los Angeles region. If Westchester residents do not have convenient pedestrian access to light rail, they will conclude that they have no choice but to use private motor vehicles to access destinations throughout Los Angeles County, thereby increasing vehicle emissions and traffic congestion throughout the region.

I therefore urge you to include a light rail station at Florence Ave. and Hindry Ave. in the plans for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and seek TIGER funding for its construction. I look forward to working with you to ensure that this corridor receives strong federal support and serves all of the communities in the Crenshaw/LAX area.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Peter M. Rogoff, Federal Transit Administrator

MW:ks

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Mr. Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Dear Mr. Leahy:

I urge you to include a light rail station in Leimert Park in the plans for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and to apply for a federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant for the construction of this station during the application period for the current round of TIGER grants.

As you know, I am a strong supporter of the TIGER grant program, and I am committed to expanding the available funding for TIGER. Earlier this year, I reintroduced the TIGER Grants for Job Creation Act (H.R. 1124), a bill to provide an emergency supplemental appropriation of one billion dollars over the next two years for TIGER, which would not be subject to sequestration. This bill now has 68 cosponsors, as well as the support of the LACMTA Board of Directors. I also sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee, signed by 113 of my colleagues, requesting an appropriation of \$500 million for the TIGER grant program in fiscal year 2014.

The Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor will improve air quality, relieve traffic congestion, and expand access to work, education, shopping, and entertainment opportunities throughout Los Angeles County. In order to maximize these benefits, it is important that all LACMTA transit riders are able to access all of the communities and destinations along the corridor. That is why it is so critical that the corridor include a station in Leimert Park.

Leimert Park is a historically significant focal point of African American culture in Los Angeles. Home to art galleries, bookstores, restaurants, live music, theater, ethnic clothing stores, and African artifacts, it is one of the rich cultural destinations of Southern California. Throughout the year, the merchants and residents of Leimert Park stage jazz festivals, book fairs, farmer's markets, poetry readings, celebrations of Louisiana culture, and African drummers on Sunday afternoons. Through good times and economic downturns, Leimert Park has maintained its ability to attract both residents and tourists alike.

Failure to include a station in Leimert Park would reduce the overall benefits of the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor for the entire Los Angeles region. The lack of a convenient light rail station would cause people to seek other modes of transportation to access this popular destination, thereby increasing traffic congestion and vehicle emissions in Leimert Park and indeed throughout Los Angeles County. A light rail station in Leimert Park will ease traffic congestion, stimulate the local economy, and facilitate access for residents and tourists who are drawn to the economic and cultural opportunities of this vibrant community.

I therefore urge you to include a light rail station in Leimert Park in the plans for the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor and seek TIGER funding for its construction. I look forward to working with you to ensure that this corridor receives strong federal support and serves all of the communities in the Crenshaw/LAX area.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Peter M. Rogoff, Federal Transit Administrator

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